

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY  
WEST POINT, NEW YORK

Department of Social Sciences

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23 April 1953

Mr. Allan W. Dulles, Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

As you know from long experience, the pay-off on any campus lecture is best measured by the quantity and quality of the questions thrown at the sponsoring agency over a period of days after the lecture. The tide of questions which you precipitated is still running strong; mostly, good questions, incisive and often hard to answer. A goodly part of them indicate keen interest in the possibility of a some-time, preferably early, assignment to CIA with a view to determining whether a full career in that field should be sought.

As you already know, military intelligence in all its aspects has long been "behind the eight-ball," a matter we discussed at dinner. I only wish that my own observations could go along with your conclusion that military intelligence has come of age in terms of its proper acceptance by other elements of the military machine. My contacts in recent years with the people I call "military mechanics" indicates a continuing state of mind far short of adequate appreciation of the role of intelligence and its instrumentalities. For more than 15 years I have had a pet formula which seems to create annoyance among aforesaid mechanics whenever I voice it. The formula would ensure that whenever a young officer achieves a solid success in troop leading (whether in combat or peacetime field service) thus earmarking him for expedited preferment, his next full tour of duty would be in military intelligence. That experience should broaden his vision and imagination, and in all probability inspire a bit of humility to tone down the burgeoning ego. Then, should he arrive in time at two, three, or four star level, some of the broad vision might remain to balance the ego.

You and I can name a lot of high level military men whose minds and assorted complexes are not open to the above criticism; also all too many of the other kind. While the latter are in power, the military intelligence specialist is bound to have a poor time of it, not only in such matters as promotion and attendant perquisites but in the no less vital matter of recognition of their professional contribution. A mimeograph pamphlet from my Command & General Staff School sub-course (spring of 1928) in military intelligence reads: "Too many brush-offs by that godlike creature, the commander, will kill the interest and usefulness of the military intelligence personnel, at the same time inviting disaster."

The cadets collect a surprising amount of information on this business, most of it via the "Service brats," sons of military personnel. On the other hand, there is always a substantial volume of interest in a military intelligence career or at least in a look-and-see tour of duty. Our courses cannot fail to stimulate interest along such lines. When you can find the leisure please look over the indicated portions of the inclosures to this letter. Our courses are shown on pp. 4-9 of the Department pamphlet. The texts used are listed on a separate mimeograph sheet. Note the progressive build-up of the cadet's studies, from a foundation in Economic Geography and in European History to capstone courses in Economics of National Security and International Relations. For the superior students additional opportunities are afforded by:

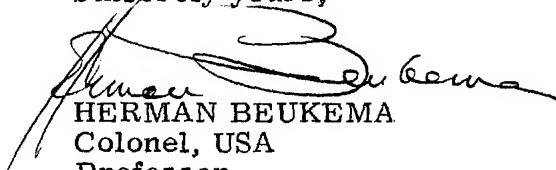
1. Seminars conducted on a voluntary basis.
2. Advanced sub-courses in lieu of regular courses if the latter have been previously covered in college.
3. Participation in conferences on International Relations, both on our campus and as guests of other colleges.

All told, this adds up to a sound framework for the man whose abilities and interests lie in your sphere. We try to cull out the best for extended graduate study, followed by a tour of duty in our office, and earmarking for duty at SHAPE, FECOM, the Pentagon and wherever that type of specialist is needed. It has been our practice for several years past to provide Gen. Gruenther and a few other key people with detailed profiles of the Department's "graduates." To my way of thinking, you should get a copy of such data. We will be glad to send it if you are interested.

Again, many thanks for your vital contribution to our work. I hope that the long-range dividends will include CIA's acquisition of some of the best of the men who heard your lecture.

Every good wish, in which Mrs. Beukema joins me.

Sincerely yours,

  
HERMAN BEUKEMA  
Colonel, USA  
Professor

3 Incls: Dept. of Soc. Sciences pamphlet  
List of Texts  
Report, SCUSA III